REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are pending in the present application.

Claims 5, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 5 to recite "resilient means" instead of "spring means" and the noted typographical error has been corrected. Claim 7 has been corrected so that proper antecedent basis is provided. Claim 8 has been amended so that is clear that the shift rail of claim 6 is included within the group of shift rails recited in claim 8. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jin et al.

Claim 4 has been amended into independent form by including the subject matter of claim 1. This part of the amendment is not a narrowing amendment since claim 4 originally depended from claim 1. Amended claim 4 recites a compliant link that is embodied in Fig. 4. As explained in the specification, the compliant link 300 of Fig. 4 has first and second members 302, 304 that are mounted coaxial and the adjacent ends of the members are provided with bores with an annular flange formed at one end of the members. A connecting rod 312 is provided with head formations, one at each end, and the heads formations slidingly engaging in the bores of the members. One spring is disposed within one bore to apply a biasing force against the head. The compliant link acts in the manner shown in Fig. 5 in which the compliant link acts as a solid link when a load is applied and then one of the springs compresses before the compliant link acts as a solid link.

Applicants respectfully submit that one or more features recited in the amended claim 4 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference. Jin et al. disclose a booster for transmission gear boxes. The Examiner is equating the members 10, 20 as being the claimed first and second members and a connecting rod is movable between the two members and resilient means 72a, 74a is provided. Further, the Examiner refers to the claimed stop as being represented by element 155 in the cited reference; however, this element is a packing that is interposed between in the junction between the housing, the piston rod and the pneumatic cylinder. The amended claim 4 recites that the stop is provided at the end of the rod and it acts to bias one of the resilient means against the member that receives the resilient means. Thus, this packing material does not have the structure and/or operation as the stop recited in claim 4.

Claim 4 has been amended to further include a number of other features, including, the feature that the first and second members are distanced from one another in an operating direction and the rod extends through one of the resilient means. The aforementioned stop at the end of the rod has also been added by way of this amendment.

The precise construction that is recited in amended claim 4 is not disclosed by any of the cited references and the present construction has the advantage on the one hand that different spring means can be used to apply a force in the two directions, and on the other hand that the resulting overall arrangement is compact and linear. By biasing the two spring means, it is possible to operate with a positive, rigid engagement within a given range, to provide an elastic actuation of the shifting rod only after the spring forces have been exceeded, and to return again to rigid movement after the elastic range has

been exceeded. The precise workings of the claimed compliant link are described in great detail in the specification.

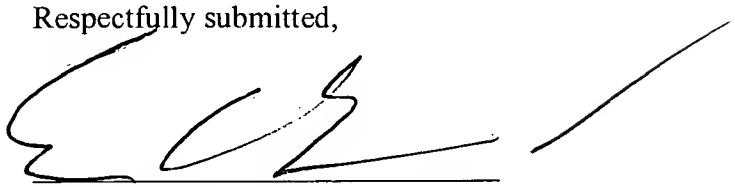
The construction of the Jin et al. device does not permit the device to be able to work in the same manner as the present device since it does not operate with a rigid engagement within a given range then provide elastic actuation and then return to rigid movement after elastic range has been exceeded. Further, claim 4 recites that the link has a stop at the end of the rod that biases one of the resilient means against the member that receives the resilient means. As set forth in the present specification, the resilient means is disposed in a bore in the member and therefore, the stop applies a force against the biasing means so that it is urged against the member that receives the resilient means. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not disclosed in the cited reference.

Claims 2-3 and 5-8 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 4.

Allowance of claims 2-8 is earnestly solicited at this time.

It is believed that the present Amendment is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

2. (Amended) A compliant link according to claim [1] 4 in which the resilient means provides compliance for loads applied to the link in opposite directions.

3. (Amended) A compliant link according to claim [1] 4 in which relative movement between the members is limited so that the compliant link acts as a solid link when an axial load above a second predetermined value is applied to one of the members.

4. (Amended) A compliant link [according to claim 4 in which] comprising first and second members distanced from each other in an operating position, said member being interconnected by resilient means, the resilient means being preloaded to prevent relative movement between the members when an axial load below a first predetermined value is applied to one of the members, wherein the first and second members are interconnected by means of a connecting rod, the connecting rod being moveable relative to both the first and second members, first resilient means acting between the first member and the connecting rod to oppose contraction of the link and second resilient means acting between the second member and the connecting rod to oppose extension to the link, wherein the rod extends through one of the resilient means, a stop at the end of the rod biases said one of the resilient means against the member that receives said one of the resilient means.

5. (Amended) A compliant link according to claim 4 in which the first [spring] resilient means acts between the first member and the connecting [road] rod biasing the connecting rod towards the second member and into abutment with a stop formation on the first member and the second [spring] resilient means acts between the second member and the connecting rod biasing the connecting rod away from the first member and into engagement with a stop formation on the second member.

6. (Amended) A gear engagement mechanism comprising a shift actuator coupled to a shift rail, a compliant link as claimed in claim [1] 4 being included between the shift actuator and shift rail.

7. (Amended) A gear engagement mechanism according to claim 6 in which the shift actuator is connected directly to [a] the shift rail by the compliant link.

8. (Amended) A gear engagement mechanism according to claim 6 in which the shift actuator is connected to a selector member by the compliant link, the selector member being arranged to selectively engage the shift rail which is member [one] of a plurality of shift rails.